

# Theresa Runstedtler

## American University

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### EDUCATION

**Yale University**, PhD (with Distinction), African American Studies and History, Fall 2007

**York University, Toronto, Canada**, Honours BA, *summa cum laude*, History and English, May 1998

### EMPLOYMENT

**American University, Washington, DC**

Associate Professor of History, August 2013-Present (Tenured in Spring 2015)

Inaugural Chair of the Critical Race, Gender & Culture Studies Collaborative, September 2015-Present

**University at Buffalo (SUNY)**

Assistant Professor of American Studies and Adjunct Professor of African & African American Studies in the Department of Transnational Studies, August 2007-August 2013

### HONORS AND AWARDS

#### I. Academic

##### a) National and International

- Phillis Wheatley Book Prize for *Jack Johnson, Rebel Sojourner*, Northeast Black Studies Association (2013)
- University of Pennsylvania, Penn Humanities Forum, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship (2011-2012)
- Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship (2004-2006)
- Organization of American Historians (OAH) La Pietra Fellowship for Transnational Research (2005)
- OAH Merrill Travel Grant for Research in Washington, DC (2005)
- Gilder Lehrman Institute Fellowship for Research at the Schomburg Center, New York City (2005)

##### b) University at Buffalo

- Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship (Fall 2008)

##### c) Yale University

- Nominated for the Allan Nevins Dissertation Prize of the Society of American Historians (2008)
- Sylvia Ardyn Boone Prize for the Best Dissertation on African American Culture at Yale (2008)
- Leylan Fellowship for Dissertation Writing (2006-2007)
- Yale Center for International and Area Studies (YCIAS) Dissertation Research Fellowship (2004-2005)
- Yale Center for the Study of Globalization Dissertation Research Fellowship (2004)
- Beinecke Library Research Fellowship (2004)
- YCIAS Pre-Dissertation Fellowship for Research in London, England (2003)

#### II. Other

- Mentorship Award, Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars Program, American University (2016)
- Yale President's Public Service Fellowship, Museum Education, New Haven Historical Society (2002)

### PUBLICATIONS

#### I. Book

*Jack Johnson, Rebel Sojourner: Boxing in the Shadow of the Global Color Line*

(George Gund Foundation Imprint in African American Studies/American Crossroads Series, University of California Press, 2012).

- Available in hardcover, paperback, and kindle editions

#### II. Book Chapters

“The New Negro’s Brown Brother: African American and Filipino Boxers and the ‘Rising Tide of Color,’” in Eds. Davarian Baldwin and Minkah Makalani, *Escape from New York: The New Negro Renaissance Beyond Harlem* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013): 105-126.

“In Sports the Best Man Wins: How Joe Louis Whipped Jim Crow,” in Ed. Amy Bass, *In the Game: Race, Identity and Sports in the Twentieth Century* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005): 47-92.

- Article reprinted in *Sport in America: From Colonial Leisure to Celebrity Figures and Globalization, Volume II*, Ed. David K. Wiggins (Urbana-Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 2009): 221-255.

### III. Articles

#### a) Refereed Articles

“More than a Game: Black Child Labor in the Sports-Industrial Complex,” *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* (Submitted for special issue on “Consuming Athletic labor,” Edited by Daniel Gilbert)

“Racial Bias: Black Athletes, Reagan’s War on Drugs, and Big-time Sports Reform,” *American Studies*, vol. 55, no. 3 (2016): 85-115. (Part of special issue on “Sport in the University,” co-edited with Lucia Trimbur, Dan Gilbert, Tyran Steward, Noah Cohan)

“White Anglo-Saxon Hopes and Black Americans’ Atlantic Dreams: Jack Johnson and the British Boxing Colour Bar,” *Journal of World History*, vol. 21, no. 4 (December 2010): 657-689.

“Visible Men: African American Boxers, the New Negro, and the Global Color Line,” Special Issue: Reconceptualizations of the African Diaspora, *Radical History Review*, no. 103 (Winter 2009): 59-81.

#### b) Invited Articles

Review essay, “More than Fellow Travelers: Women of Color and Transnational Politics” for the *Journal of Women's History* (Forthcoming 2018)

“From *White Wash* to Black Ice: Black Athletes in Unexpected Places,” *Journal of American Ethnic History*, vol. 35, no. 2 (Winter 2016): 79-90.

“‘Caught Between the Devil and the Deep White Sea’: Black Canada’s Case of Diasporic Dys-funk-tion,” *Canadian Issues*, (Fall 2005): 41-44.

#### c) Book Reviews

Eric Allen Hall, *Arthur Ashe: Tennis and Justice in the Civil Rights Era* for *Journal of Social History*, vol. 51:3 (Spring 2018).

Troy Rondinone, *Friday Night Fighter: Gaspar “Indio” Ortega and the Golden Age of Television Boxing* for *Journal of American History*, vol. 101, no. 1 (June 2014): 316-317.

Robert Thurston, *Lynching: American Mob Murder in Global Perspective* for *Annual Bulletin of Historical Literature* (2013): 22-25.

Peter Benson, *Battling Siki: A Tale of Ring Fixes, Race, and Murder in the 1920s* for *American Studies*, vol. 50, no. 1/2 (Spring/Summer 2009): 210-211.

### V. Research in Progress

“The Black Athlete and the Early War on Drugs” (Article drafted, Revising for submission)

“Black Ball: Rethinking the ‘Dark Ages’ of Professional Basketball” (Monograph in progress)

“Racial Bias: The Black Athlete and the War on Drugs in Reagan’s America” (Monograph in progress)

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Black Cultural History (Race, Gender, and Resistance in Sports); African Americans and the Carceral State (Racial History of the War on Drugs and Mass Incarceration); Black Internationalism and Transnationalism; Transnational U.S. History/History of U.S. Empire

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Studies Association (ASA) (Lifetime membership), American Historical Association (AHA), Organization of American Historians (OAH), Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

### SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

#### I. Invited Talks

“Racial Bias: The Black Athlete, Reagan’s War on Drugs, and Big-Time Sports Reform”

- Invited Presenter, History Seminar, Johns Hopkins University, October 2016

“Jack Johnson and Black Masculinity”

- Invited Panelist, Passing the Ball: Race and Sports Conference, Temple University, April 2015

“Racial Bias: The Black Athlete and the War on Drugs”

- Invited Speaker, Series on Race and Sport, Marquette University Law School, April 2015

“Interdisciplinary Americas: The Legacies of African American Studies, American Studies, and History at Yale”

- Invited Panelist on Transnational American Studies, Yale University, November 2013

“Jack Johnson, Rebel Sojourner”

- Keynote Speaker, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Historical Lecture Series, Todd Anthony Bell National Resource Center on the African American Male, Ohio State University, February 2013

“Jack Johnson’s Insurgent Legacy”

- Invited Speaker, Series on Race and Sport, Marquette University Law School, February 2013

“Jack Johnson and the Fight against the Global Color Line”

- Invited Speaker, Centre for the Study of the United States Speaker Series, University of Toronto, February 2013

“Jack Johnson and the Global Color Line”

- Invited Panelist, 3rd Annual Ron Walters Memorial & Symposium, American University, Washington, DC, November 2012

“Jack Johnson, Rebel Sojourner”

- Invited Speaker, New Book Presentation Series, Warfield Center for African and African-American Studies, University of Texas, Austin, November 2012

“Jack Johnson vs. John Bull: Exploring the Cultural Politics of Empire and Resistance,”

- Invited Speaker, Yale International History Workshop, October 2012

“Jack Johnson’s Global Legacy”

- Invited Speaker, History Department, University of California, Los Angeles, October 2012

## II. Professional Meetings

“Race, Sport, Spectatorship” Roundtable

- Panelist, AHA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2018

“‘The Punch’: NBA Basketball and Constructions of Black Criminality”

- “Sport and the Pedagogies of Race and Gender in the Post-Civil Rights Era,” Sponsored by the Sports Studies Caucus
- Panelist, ASA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 2017

“Transnational Symbols, Insurgent Legacies: Muhammad Ali and African American Champions in the Twentieth Century”

- “The Legacy of Muhammad Ali,” Presidential Panel
- Invited Panelist, ASA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2016

“Black Balled: Len Bias, the War on Drugs, and Big-time Sports Reform”

- “Home on Campus?: Centering Sport in the University,” Sponsored by the Sports Studies Caucus and *American Studies*
- Panelist, ASA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2016

“Before Bias: The Black Athlete and the Early War on Drugs”

- Panelist, ASALH Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, September 2015

“Sports History as Civil Rights History” Roundtable

- Panelist, ASALH Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, September 2015

“Racial Bias: The Black Athlete and Reagan’s War on Drugs”

- Panelist, ASA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, October 2015

“The Policing of Black Pleasure: New Negro Performers in White Australia”

- Panelist, ASA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, November 2014

“Jack Johnson and the Fight against the Global Color Line”

- Panelist, European Social Science and History Conference (ESSHC), Vienna, Austria, April 2014

“Child’s Play? Black Youths’ Sporting Labor in the Neoliberal Age”

- Panelist, Critical Narratives of Sport Seminar, American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Meeting, New York University, March 2014

“Laboring on the Color Line: Black Cultural Workers in the Age of Blackface Minstrelsy”

- Panelist, ASA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 2013

## SELECTED PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Race and Religion at the 1936 Olympics

- Invited Panelist, Vilna Shul, Boston, Sponsored by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, April 2016

Presentation on Jack Johnson for NYC School Teachers (In preparation for *The Royale* by Marco Ramirez)

- Invited Speaker, Lincoln Center Theater, New York City, February 2016

“Joe Louis and Double Victory during World War II”

- Invited Speaker, 23rd Annual AP American History Conference at The Strong, Rochester, NY, March 2013

- Book talks: Canadian Book Launch at A Different Booklist in Toronto, Ontario, October 2012; Gelf Magazine's "Varsity Letters" series at Le Poisson Rouge, New York City, August 2012; Moonstone Arts Center, Philadelphia, June 2012; Hue-man Bookstore, New York City, June 2012; University of Pennsylvania Bookstore, Philadelphia, May 2012; New York City Book Launch at Jimmy's Corner, May 2012

"The Black Athlete: From Jack Johnson to Metta World Peace"

- Featured speaker with David J. Leonard (WSU) and moderated by Marc Lamont Hill, Brecht Forum, New York City, June 2012

## SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Video Interviewee for Library of Congress exhibit on World War I (December 2016)
- TV Interviewee, Five-part Series on Jack Johnson, PIX11/WPIX-11 News, New York City, NY (October 2016)
- TV Documentary Interviewee about African Americans in the military – *Honor Delayed: A Soledad O'Brien Special Report* on Aljazeera America (June 2015)
- TV Documentary Interviewee about Jack Johnson for the History Channel's *How Sex Changed the World* (2012)
- Radio Interviewee/Panelist (2012-Present) – *The Current with Anna Maria Tremonti* (CBC), *RadioLive New Zealand*, *BBC Radio 5 Live*, *Leonard Lopate Show* (WNYC), *Marc Steiner Show* (WEAA), *Metro with Greg Rasheed* (KGNU), *Sojourner Truth with Margaret Prescod* (KPFK), *The Taylor Report* (CIUT), *Ontario Today* (CBC), *110% with Barry Nicholls* (Australian Broadcasting Corporation)

## TEACHING

### I. Teaching Interests

- African American and African Diaspora History (With a focus on questions of gender, sexuality, and class); Black Cultural History/Race, Gender, and Resistance in Popular Culture; Black Internationalism and Transnationalism; Transnational U.S. History/U.S. Imperial History; Comparative Ethnic Studies

### II. Teaching Experience

#### Undergraduate Surveys

- African American History to 1877; African American History from 1877 to Present; Social Forces Shaped America (General Education); American Pluralism (General Education); World Civilizations to 1500 (General Education)

#### Upper-level Undergraduate Seminars

- Black Popular Culture; African Americans and the World; The African Diaspora

#### Study Abroad

- Cuba: Serving Social Justice (Summer 2015, brought 10 students from AU's Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars program to Havana, Cuba)

#### Graduate Seminars

- U.S. History Colloquium II (1865 to Present); Graduate History Research Seminar; Cultures of U.S. Empire; Race & Culture in America; Race, Gender & the Body; African American History from Below

## SERVICE

### I. Professional

- Review Panel Member, Humanities Collections and Reference Resources, U.S. History & Culture: African American Studies, National Endowment for the Humanities (Fall 2015)
- Member, John E. O'Connor Film Prize Committee, American Historical Association (2015-2017)
- External Affiliate, Purai Institute of Global Indigenous and Diaspora Research Studies, Newcastle University, Callaghan, New South Wales, Australia (Fall 2013-Present)
- Co-founder, DC-Area African American Studies Seminar (2013-2016)
- Member, Sports Studies and Critical Prison Studies Caucuses, American Studies Association (Fall 2014-Present)
- Member, Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize Committee, American Studies Association (Spring-Fall 2013)
- Article Reviewer for *International Journal of the History of Sport* (Spring 2017), *Radical History Review* (Summer 2015, Spring 2014), *Journal of Sport History* (Spring 2014), *Journal of Global History* (Spring 2013), *African American Review* and *Urban History Review* (Spring 2010), and *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* (Fall 2008)
- Book Manuscript Reviewer for Syracuse University Press (Fall 2015, Spring 2014), Routledge (Fall 2013), Temple University Press (2006, 2008), and the University of Texas Press (2008)

### II. American University

#### a) Department

- Member, Public History Search Committee (Fall 2015-Spring 2016)
- Member, Graduate Committee (Fall 2013-Fall 2015)

#### b) College

- Inaugural Chair of the Critical Race, Gender & Culture Studies Collaborative (Fall 2015-Present)

- Teaching unit housing five interdisciplinary programs: American Studies, African American and African Diaspora Studies, Arab World Studies, Asian Studies, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Interim Director of African American and African Diaspora Studies (Fall 2017)
- Submitted proposal with Keith Leonard to create a major in African American and African Diaspora Studies (Fall 2016, Major approved in Spring 2017)
- Search Committee Chair, Term Faculty Positions in WGSS and AWST/WGSS (Summer 2016)
- Co-organizer, Races, Empires & Diasporas Working Group, AU Humanities Lab (Fall 2015-Present)
- Co-Principal Investigator, "Curriculum development on racial literacy: Study of current and best practices," University Retreat Competition (Fall 2016-Present)
- Member, Theatre/Musical Theatre Search Committee, Department of Performing Arts (Fall 2014-Spring 2015)

**c) University**

- Outside Member, Race, Media, and Communication Search Committee, School of Communications (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)
- Faculty Advisor for the Black Student Alliance (2015-2017)
- Member, Ann Ferren Conference on Teaching, Research, and Learning Planning Committee (2014-2016)

**III. University at Buffalo**

**a) Department**

- Graduate Coordinator of African American Studies and Transnational Studies hubs (2008-2013)
- Chair, Publicity (In charge of brochures, information sheets, and website updates) (2008-2011)
- Member, Native American Studies Search Committee, Transnational Studies (Fall 2012)
- Member, Graduate Committee, American Studies (2007-2013)
- Member, Asian American Studies Search Committee, American Studies (Fall 2007)

**b) College**

- Co-organizer, Races, Empires, and Diasporas Research Group, Humanities Institute (2011-2013)
- Member, African & African American Studies Department Advisory Council (2008-2010)

**c) University**

- Co-convenor, Buffalo Seminar on Racial Justice, Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy Working Group (2007-2011)
- Lead Organizer, Thinking Beyond the Nation-State: Empires, Diasporas, and Indigeneity, Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy Symposium (Fall 2009)
- Co-organizer, Building Connections: U.S.-Canadian Symposium on Race, University of Toronto (Spring 2008)